

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-14, 16-22, 24-27, 30-33, 35-38, 44-49 and 51-52 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

The Examiner states that claims 7, 15-16, 23-25, 29-32, 34, 50-52 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7 and intervening claims 5 and 6, claim 11 to include the limitations of claim 15 and intervening claim 12, claim 17 to include the limitations of claim 23, claim 26 to include the limitations of claim 29 and intervening claim 28, claim 33 to include the limitations of claim 34, and claim 44 to include the limitations of claim 50. Furthermore, Applicant has made various amendments to the remaining claims to correct informalities noted during review of the application. In view of the Examiner's prior indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant submit that the Application should now be in condition for allowance.

The examiner requested the Applicant submit a copy of the IDS that was previously filed in this application. Submitted herewith is a copy of the IDS and form 1449 that was filed on June 20, 2003. Copies of the cited references will be provided on request.

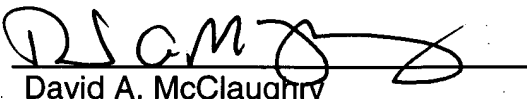
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 29, 2004

By: 
David A. McClaughry
Reg. No. 37,885

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

DAM/pal